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California State Legislature

SENATOR HANNAH-BETH JACKSON

NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR SENATE JUDICIARY

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN. WORK AND FAMILIES

COMMITTEES
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON EDUCATION

LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

PUBLIC SAFETY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY

March 12, 2018

State of California Natural Resources Agency Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division 1725 23rd St., Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: Support for the County of Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office State of California Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) 2018/2019 Grant Program Application

Dear Grant Administrator:

As the State Senator representing the 19th Senate District, which includes all of the County of Santa Barbara, I am writing in support of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office application for funding through the State of California Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle 2018/2019 Grant Program. This funding will allow the Sheriff's Office to pay for specialized off-road equipment and enforcement patrols for the Santa Ynez River. This fragile ecosystem is being threatened by illegal off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders who are destroying property and negatively impacting the environment, including the endangered Steelhead Trout.

As you know, this illegal activity violates a number of State and County ordinances and poses a threat to health and human safety, as well as the surrounding environment. A significant portion of the Santa Ynez River is a flood zone. Additionally, the river is characterized as critical habitat for the endangered Southern Steelhead and other fragile species. Beyond the environmental impacts, the site is contiguous and parallel to the Lompoc airport's only active runway, with a separation of less than ½ mile. The high number of people utilizing OHVs in the riverbed is clearly a safety hazard.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, I hope you will join me in supporting the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office grant application. Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you need further information, please feel free to contact my District Director, James Joyce at 805-965-0862.

Sincerely,

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON

Harrah feth Jackson

Senator, 19th District

HBJ: bc